



Attorney Docket No. 1405.1024

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Masahide NODA et al.

Serial No.: 09/628,352

Group Art Unit: 2756

Filed: July 28, 2000

Examiner: TBA

For: COMMUNICATION PROMOTION METHOD AND SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☒ English language translation (abstracts only) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. ☒ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
- 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
- 1g. ☐ List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).

2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(b):

(Check either Item 2a or 2b or 2c or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a Continued Prosecution Application under § 1.53(d);
- 2b. ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application.
- 2c. ☒ Before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- 2d. ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.

3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR § 1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 2 above but before the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action under § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, AND  
(Check either Item 3a or 3b; Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)
- 3a. ☐ The §1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; OR
- 3b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is:  
☐ enclosed.  
☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 CFR §1.97(d) after the period specified in paragraph 3 above, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee, AND
- 4a. ☐ The § 1.97(e) Statement in Item 5 below is applicable; AND
- 4b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is:  
☐ enclosed.  
☐ to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
5. ☐ Statement under § 1.97(e) (applicable if Item 3a or Item 4 is checked)  
(Check either Item 5a or 5b)
- 5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), it is stated that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- 5b. ☐ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2), it is stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
6. ☐ This is a continuation/divisional/continuation-in-part application under 37 CFR § 1.53(b).  
(Check appropriate Items 6a and/or 6b)
- 6a. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were previously cited in prior application Serial No. \_\_, filed on \_\_, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, have been omitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
- 6b. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. \_\_, filed on \_\_, and which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date for the subject application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, are provided herewith.
7. ☐ This is a continuation/divisional application under 37 CFR § 1.53(d) or Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114.  
(Check either Item 7a or 7b)
- 7a. ☐ The Issue Fee has not been paid.

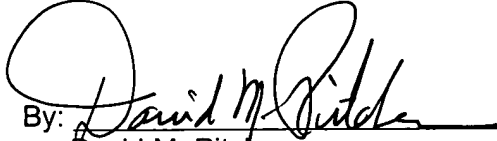
- 7b. ☐ A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 CFR §1.313(c) is filed concurrently herewith or has been granted. A continuation application under 37 CFR § 1.53(d) or Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114, after payment of the Issue Fee is proper in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.53(d)(1)(ii) or 37 CFR 1.114(a), respectively.
8. ☐ This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.  
(Check either Item 8a or 8b)
- 8a. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on \_\_\_\_\_. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 CFR § 1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental IDS can be considered as if properly filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8b. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of the Notice under 37 CFR § 1.97 and 1.98, mailed \_\_\_\_\_. (MPEP 609 C(1), Form ¶ 6.49, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000, pp. 600-107)
9. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:  
(Check appropriate Items 9a, 9b, 9c and/or 9d)
- 9a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)
- 9b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 9c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (abstracts only) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 9d. ☒ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
10. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

11. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17 for this Information Disclosure Statement and/or Petition to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

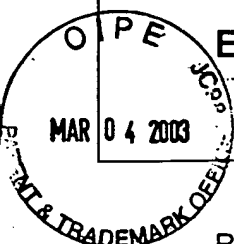
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11/21

ATTACHMENT 1(e)



**EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY  
OF REFERENCES**

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
1405.1024	09/628,352
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	
Masahide NODA et al.	
FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
July 28, 2000	2756

Reference AG - as presently advised, Reference AG is to solve a time lag between expressions of feelings accompanied with dialogue text data and the dialogue text data, and to transmit natural feelings. It is originally desirable to display the dialogue text data and the expressions of feelings simultaneously.

As preconditions, a technology by which many and unspecified users communicate paragraph 0003) and a display device which stores animation images (paragraph 0015) are described.

Moreover, it is described in Reference AG that a control text data registered in advance is extracted from an input text data that is inputted in the display device, and that a plurality of animation images are displayed (paragraphs 0019-0020). The animation images correspond to the control text data. Further, it is mentioned that a text data including the dialogue text data and control text data is sent and that the animation images are displayed in a receiving side.

Reference AH - as presently advised, the object of Reference AH is to transmit a feeling of a transmitter to a receiver and to decrease a quantity of transmission data in communications such as an electronic conference and the like (paragraph 0009).

A communication device proposed in Reference AH is used in an electronic conferencing system and so on (paragraph 0104) and has basic image data (paragraph 0049). Moreover, in the communication device of Reference AH, a user's selection and transmission of a feeling signal that changes image data convert the image data displayed in a receiving side (paragraph 0028, Fig. 7, step m9, paragraph 0069). Such a feeling signal can be created by a feeling that is presumed from a voice-mail message inputted by a user.

Reference AJ - as presently advised, the object of Reference AJ is to provide an interactive communication terminal device that enables to communicate in diverse output forms (paragraph 0004).

A computer system relating to the invention of Reference AJ shares a virtual space with other computer systems and displays an avatar expressing each user and other objects (paragraph 0012). A message in CG and characters expressing a movement of an object is sent to the other computer systems from the computer system (paragraph 0013).

However, if a user selects an operation in a menu of operations, the computer system of Reference AJ generates movement expression data expressing the selected operation and sends the movement expression data to all other computer systems that share a virtual space (paragraphs 0017-0020).